

HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB

NEWSLETTER

Robert Reiling, editor □ Post Office Box 626 □ Mountain View, CA 94042

Volume Number 2, Issue 4

April 30, 1976

THIS ISSUE - Robert Reiling

MORE 6800 SOFTWARE - Ray Boaz has memory test programs which he describes in this issue under the title BAD BIT GETTERS.....Tom Pittman explains HOW TO MAKE THE 6800 RESIDENT ASSEMBLER AND EDITOR WORK IN YOUR SYSTEM. He has completed a rather detailed analysis and this article reveals many secrets of the software. Tom is the software expert who developed TINY BASIC for the 6800 (See last months Newsletter for details).

BOOTSTRAP THE 8080 - Users of 8080's are not overlooked in this issue. The DATA FILE contains a unique bootstrap written by Lichen Wang. It's a short program that can save plenty of operator time.

BAY AREA CLUBS - Richard Lindberg reveals the meaning of BAMUG by answering the question WHAT'S A BAMUG?

It seems you can take your computer to meet a computer if you visit the LO*OP CENTER. Read NOTES FROM THE NORTH.

Computer clubs are invited to send material for the Newsletter and I will, as space permits, publish your items. This applies particularly if you are in the San Francisco area and don't have a newsletter going yet or just don't want the hassle that goes with producing one.

GREAT NEWS POSTAGE PAID THIS ISSUE - Postage for this issue of the Newsletter has been paid by a contribution of NATIONAL TELETYPEWRITER CORP., 207 Newtown Road, Plainview, NY 11803. Joe Gibbons, President, explains that his company has new and rebuilt TTY's from Model 28 through 40. They have other equipment available also. Lease/purchase arrangements can be made. Write to Joe at the above address and get a complete list of equipment and prices. In the event you want to telephone call 516-292-0444. Thank you Joe for the contribution.

WHAT IS YOUR SYSTEM? - In the Newsletter I have published software and hardware material of varied content but so far have not had an article on a "HOMEBREW SYSTEM". I am sure there would be plenty of interest in system descriptions. Could some of you work up a description of your system? Plan to use a page, two pages, three pages, or just a portion of a page as dictated by the complexity of your system or the time available to prepare the information. Naturally camera ready copy, if at all possible, would be a big help. Don't forget to answer the question people always ask; how do you use your system?

ERROR - Last months Newsletter attributed principle development of the INTERMETRICS PL/M6800 compiler incorrectly. Dan Fylstra is the author of this compiler while Glenn Bingham does the marketing.

HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB MEETING 4/28/76 - An interesting meeting to say the least. A fascinating holographic display was demonstrated by Sharon from MULTIPLEX, 454 Shotwell, San Francisco, CA 94110, telephone 285-9035. Sharon is an artist and she is searching for someone with a video display capable of producing 360 degree graphics. She plans to put computer graphics and holographic art together into what I am sure will be a beautiful combination. Telephone Sharon if you can help with graphics.

Carl Helmers, the editor of BYTE, was on hand and met many of the HCC members. Everyone was delighted that Carl scheduled a visit to the meeting as part of his busy schedule while on the West Coast.

Marty of M&R ENTERPRISES, P.O. Box 1011, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, telephone 408-738-3772 displayed his ASTRO 2000 boards and promised he would soon have one of the best BASIC programs available to the hobbyist.

Preliminary specifications of the VDM-1 STAND ALONE ADAPTER CARD were given out by Lee Felsenstein. He would like your comments on the specs. Send them to LGC ENGINEERING, 1807 Delaware Street, Berkeley, CA 94703, telephone 415-845-4736. For those people who can't attend the HCC meetings, Lee moderates most of the proceedings in a style that keeps member interest and participation at a high level.

Everyone interested in hobbyist computers is invited to the HCC meetings. No dues or fees; however, a donation toward support of the Newsletter to cover printing, postage, etc. will be greatly appreciated.

CLUB MEETING SCHEDULE - HOMEBREW COMPUTER CLUB meetings are held every two weeks; May 12, 1976, May 26, 1976, June 9, 1976, etc. Location is Stanford Linear Accelerator Center, Menlo Park, California. Meetings begin at 7:00 P.M. Ask the guard at the gate for directions to the meeting room.

SOLID STATE MUSIC - Effective May 1, 1976 hours are as follows: Walk-in hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M., Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. and Will-call hours Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Purchasers of the AMI prototype board will be able to get the additional parts they need from SOLID STATE MUSIC. Contact John Burgoon, 2102A Walsh Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050, telephone 408-246-2707.

COMPUTER NOTES - Andrea Lewis has taken over the editorship of the ALTAIR Users Group publication COMPUTER NOTES. MITS has sent a number of copies of the current issue for distribution to HCC members. I will have them at the May meetings as long as the supply lasts. Andrea is doing a great job. The publication runs 16 pages and is full of information for ALTAIR users and others interested in microcomputers. For more information contact Andrea Lewis, Editor, c/o MITS, Inc., 2450 Alamo S. E., Albuquerque, NM 87106.

MINI MICRO MART - During the past several weeks the mail has been full of material from MINI MICRO MART, 1618 James Street, Syracuse, NY 13203, telephone 315-422-4467. New product data, samples of documentation, club discount opportunities, etc. Maury Goldberg feels their problems are behind them and that they can properly respond to hobbyists needs. Write to him for a list of current products. Tell me if your orders are handled the way you like. Also tell me if you have problems.

HOW TO MAKE THE 6800 RESIDENT ASSEMBLER AND EDITOR WORK IN YOUR SYSTEM

An analysis with application data.....by Tom Pittman

These two programs were designed to co-reside in 8K of RAM with 762 bytes of workspace remaining for edit buffer or symbol table. If you have more, your workspace is thus larger. Also, both the editor and assembler are designed to be able to use the other's program space for additional workspace if desired. Figure 1 is a memory map of the system. The first two pages (locations 100-2B5) in these two programs are the same, and contain all of the I/O routines for both. If location 300 is non-zero, the Editor will use the assembler program space for additional buffer; if location 1540 is non-zero, the Assembler will use the editor program space for additional buffer. The Editor is designed to use all available contiguous memory, but the Assembler will limit its symbol table to memory below 2000, or below the contents of 301-302.

The key to the I/O routines is a "transfer vector" starting in location 0100. There are 19 or so JMP instructions in this vector which permit access to all of the routines, so that the entry to the routines do not depend of their sizes. By careful analysis of these routines I have made the following determinations.

The I/O routines are designed to work with a Teletype ASR33 or Silent 700 with cassettes, where the same data is used for both printed and tape copy. The paper tape reader on the terminal may be controlled either by X-ON/X-OFF or by a relay connected to an I/O line on the computer. The punch is controlled by TAPE/TAPE or the program is instructed to make separate punch passes. There are two versions of the I/O routines, one for MIKBUG which uses a PIA for the TTY interface, and one for EXBUG, which uses an ACIA. MIKBUG is a crummy operating system (it was designed as an evaluation program), and Motorola is pretty tight about giving out information on EXBUG except with the sale of an Exorciser, so unless you have one of these in your system you are probably better off rewriting the I/O.

The tape I have seen was done for EXBUG, and since it is most likely to be the same as your copy, the following remarks apply to that version.

There are 31 references to upper memory in the I/O routines (none in the main part of the assembler and editor; I checked). Of these, there are four references to FF02

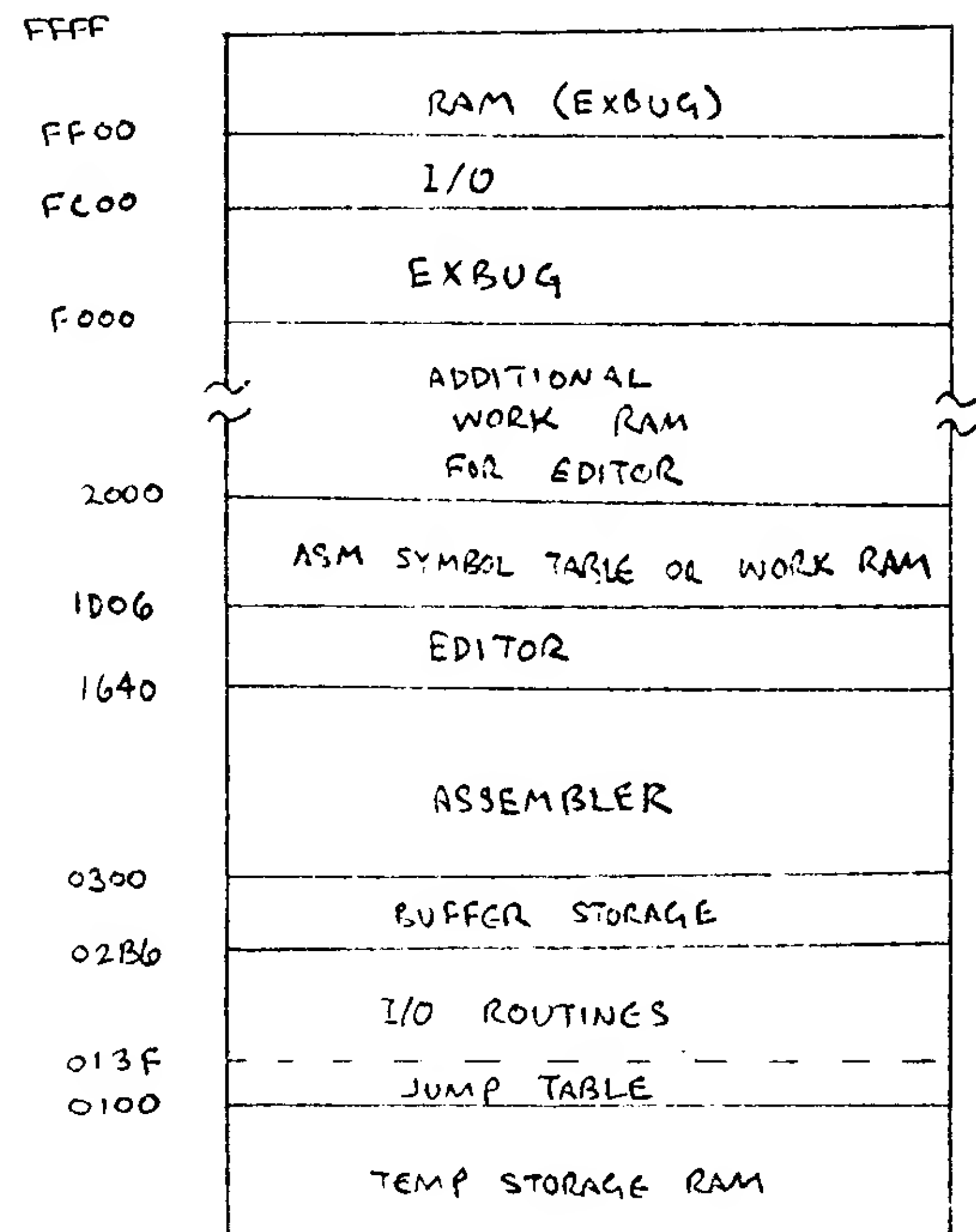


Figure 1. (EXBUG) Resident Assembler And Editor Memory Map

* Type CR & LF

```

F021    LDA A #0D    Carriage return
        JSR    OUTPUT
        LDA A #0A    Line feed
        JMP    OUTPUT

```

* Type String

```

F024    JSR    F021    First type CRLF
F027    LDA A 0,X      Get character
        INX          Increment to next
        CMP A #04      Is it end?
        BEQ    EXIT    Yes.
        JSR    OUTPUT  No, type it.
        BRA    F027    Go get another.
EXIT    RTS           Quit when done.

```

* Input & Output Links

```

F015    JMP    INPUT
F018    JMP    OUTPUT
F9CF    JMP    OUTPUT

```

Figure 2. I/O Linkages to substitute for EXBUG

(locations 018B, 01CD, 023F, and 025F); this is apparently a flag to indicate whether the terminal is a Silent 700 or not, with 00=not. All four are TST instructions, which may be altered to test any zero memory location. There are two references to FF62 and one to FF53 (0154, 023C, and 0271), which seem to be related to the EXBUG I/O flags; they may be NOPed out (three NOPs will replace each reference).

It is assumed that location FCFD contains some kind of constant for the paper tape reader control; this is fetched in locations 01DE and 0205. Bit 5 of this byte should be 0, and bit 6 should be 1 if RTS of the ACIA is used for reader control, and zero otherwise; bits 0, 2, and 4 should be ones. It may be convenient to NOP out these two fetches, and replace the opcodes of the respective following instructions with LDA A immediate (instead of AND A). Note that bit 5 enables interrupts, which may not be desired, so #15 should be used instead of #35.

The ACIA is assumed to be at locations FCF4-FCF5. Two references to its control register are used to turn the paper tape reader on and off (locations 01E3 and 020A). Two references to the input data register (locations 0212 and 0215) occur to clear out any remaining input after turning off the reader. Location 0287 checks the status register for input during a timeout loop, and 028D reads the data character when it comes. If your ACIA is in a different location, you may alter the addresses in these instructions.

There are seven subroutines in EXBUG which are called from these I/O routines. Of these, four directly must have correspondence in your system. They input a single character from the ACIA, output a single character, and exit to the monitor or operating system; they are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2 also shows the calls for composite operations. These, however, may be encoded easily to rely only on the single character input and output functions. The discussion to follow describes how these functions may be encoded in an arbitrary system.

Assume that your operating system provides a single call each for one character input "INPUT", and one character output "OUTPUT". We also assume that if your terminal requires nulls between the CR and LF that your operating system will detect the CR and insert the necessary nulls in the output call. If you have separate devices for file input and output which do not go through the terminal I/O, the beginning of

* File/Terminal I/O separator

INPUT	TST	RDRON	Check if File Input
	BEQ	TERMIN	No, Terminal.
	BRA	FILEIN	Yes, file.
OUTPUT	CMP A #11		Reader-On Control?
	BEQ	XON	Yes.
	CMP A #12		Tape-On?
	BEQ	TAPE	Yes.
	CMP A #13		Reader Cff?
	BEQ	XOFF	Yes
	CMP A #14		Tape off?
	BEQ	NTAPE	Yes.
	TST	PCHON	Is "Punch" on?
	BEQ	TERMOUT	No, Terminal.
XON	BRA	FILEOUT	Yes, file.
	INC	RDRON	Turn on "reader" =file input.
	RTS		
XOFF	CLR	RDRON	Turn off file input
	RTS		
TAPE	INC	PCHON	Turn on file output
	RTS		
NTAPE	CLR	PCHON	Turn off file output.
	RTS		

Figure 3. Suggestion for Terminal/File separation

LOCN	FUNCTION
0100	Beginning of Assembler
0103	Beginning of Editor
0106	Initialize I/O flags in F2,F5,F6
0109	Output character in A to Punch, adding LF to CR
010C	Punch character string pointed to by X, ended by 04
010F	Input (buffered) character from reader to A
0112	Read a line into input buffer; first char to A
0115	Type character in A, adding LF to CR, conv Tab to space
0118	Input character (from keyboard) to A
011B	Input character to A (with no echo?)
011E	Type text string on new line
0121	Type text string pointed to by X, ended by 04
0124	Type CR & LF
0127	Punch 32 Nulls for leader
012A	Turn on Punch (if not already on)
012D	Turn off Punch
0130	Jump to monitor (exit from program)
0133	Jump to 011E
0136	Jump to 0121

Table 1. I/O Routines Jump Table

INPUT and OUTPUT will be complicated sufficiently to distinguish file I/O from terminal I/O as described a little later.

Figure 2 is a sample program to provide the functions supplied by EXBUG. The various entries are labeled in the listing by the address in EXBUG which provides the same function (see Table 2). Normally you would include these routines in your operating system monitor, and patch jumps to them from the I/O linkages in lower memory. If you do this, you probably also wish to modify the references to upper memory described earlier to point to your own ACIA.

For a completely generalized I/O system, you need to set up separate calls for I/O on the terminal-console and I/O on the data file. Operating system commands can then be used to designate different devices as file or terminal, so that for example, you can assemble from cassette or paper tape, edit from one device to another, etc. Figure 3 shows how two flag bytes in RAM somewhere (labeled PCHON and RDRON) can be used to direct a single stream of output to either the terminal or the output file, and conversely to accept a byte from either the terminal or the input file. Note that this routine traps the Teletype Tape controls to select the data stream, and does not pass these controls through to the output. If you are going to do this, you should delete references to the ACIA from the I/O routines in lower memory (see Table 3), and insert the following instruction in the input routine in lower memory:

```
01EF    JSR    FILEIN
```

Note that the monitor subroutine FILEIN (as all good monitor routines) should not alter the Index register or the B accumulator. On return, FILEIN leaves the Carry flag set to one to indicate an end-of-file, otherwise the carry is cleared. In the case of an end-of-file, the A should still contain some appropriate character (I realize this is not the proper way of designing a system--so complain at Motorola) such as hex 1A (Control Z, which is not the ASCII EOF, but is used by these programs as an EOF character).

It should be noted that most of this information was inferred by analysis of the dis-assembled software, and lacks some of the insight afforded by true annotated assembly listings. Therefore, no warranty is made for the accuracy of the interpretations presented here. I have attempted to verify my findings, and it does seem to work. Please let me know if you find any differences or exceptions to this analysis.

CALL FROM	CALL TO	FUNCTION
0157	F015	Accept input character from terminal
0177 01A5 01E8 020F	F018	Type character to terminal (or punch)
0130	F564	Monitor exit
01D4* 01D9* 0246* 024B* 0250 0255 025C 0265* 026B*	F9CF	Output character to ACIA *these calls are skipped if location FF02 (or its substitute) is =00
011E	F024	Type string on new line
0121	F027	Type string
0124	F021	Type CR & LF

Table 2. Assembler and Editor calls to EXBUG

LOCN	INSTRUCTION	FUNCTION
0154	INC FF53	??
023C	INC FF62	Exbug Punch-on flag turned on
0271	CLR FF62	Exbug Punch-on flag turned off
018B 01CD 023F 025F	TST FF02 " " " " " "	Silent 700 flag (0=off)
01DE 0205	LDA A FCFD " "	Fetch reader control type flag
01E3	STA A FCF4	Turn on RTS in ACIA
020A	STA A FCF4	Turn off RTS in ACIA
0212 0215	LDA A FCF5 " "	Discard pending input
0287	LDA A FCF4	Test for input during timeout loop
028D	LDA A FCF5	Input character in ACIA

Table 3. Data References to Upper Memory

LOCN	FUNCTION
00F0-1	Temporary storage for Index register
00F2	Input Buffer non-void flag
00F3-4	Input Buffer pointer
00F5	Input flag (no timeout if set)
00F6	Punch Flag 0=print only
00F7	Input flag ??

Table 4. References to Page 0 by I/O Routines

BAD BIT GETTERS (OR MEMORY TEST PROGRAMS) - RAY BOAZ

Every computer system needs a memory test program or two to ensure a high level of confidence in the memory system hardware. One bad memory bit can send a program off to Never-Never Land. The memory test programs listed here are for use with 6800 systems operating with MIKBUG as a system monitor. MIKBUG is a simple monitor (as it was meant to be) which has many useful subroutines. Several of them are made use of in these memory test programs.

The terms used herein are consistent with the 6800 nomenclature. A and B are the two accumulators, X is the index register, PC is the program counter, SP is the stack pointer, CCR is the condition code register, and M is the memory location of interest.

Of the two programs, the shortest, MT1, is written to be used in the 6810 RAM used by MIKBUG as a scratch-pad. It is 27 bytes long and fits into address space A060 to A07A. This should work well for the SWTP 6800 Computer Systems. The second, MT2, is a more general test program but takes up 58 bytes total. The start and end addresses in MT1 are direct operands and therefore, shown blank in the listing. MT2 uses locations A002-3 for start and A004-5 for end addresses. So these locations must be loaded before the program is started. Also in MT2 the I/O interrupt pointer locations (A000-1) are used so if applicable it must be set after running MT2. In general both MT1 and MT2 operate the same until an error is found.

In both programs a store is made to an M start address, then the data is fetched back, compared to good data, and if true, it is incremented to test M again with A+1. This continues for all 256 bit combinations - 00 to FF. Then X is incremented and the next location is tested. This continues until the address is encountered.

In MT1, on finding an error, a branch to MIKBUG software interrupt is made. Which results in the status registers being printed out as follows: CCR-B-A-X-PC-SP. B is the good data, A is the error data, and X is the address with the error. If testing 1K bytes, 2000-23FF, and an error was found which resulted in B=00, A=00 and X=007, the chip containing data bit 7 (MSB) at M=2007 is bad. M+1 must be loaded as the new start address to continue the test to end address.

MT2 on finding an error goes to a routine to print A-B-X, then continues to the next M until end address is reached. Here again A=error data, B=good data, and X=M error.

Both of these programs have worked well as a memory tester and as chip tester for 2102 type memory chips.

MT1

A060	CE	_____	START	L DX	LOAD X WITH START ADDR
A063	4F		OMT	CLRA	CLEAR A
A064	5F			CLRB	CLEAR B
A065	06			TAP	CLEAR CCR
A066	A7	00	NVAL	STAA	STORE A AT X ADDR
A068	A6	00		LDAA	LOAD A WITH DATA JUST STORED.
A06A	11			CBA	COMPARE B-A
A06B	26	0D		BNE	IF NOT SAME BRANCH TO <u>ERROR</u>

A06D	4C		INCA	ELSE INCREMENT A
A06E	5C		INCB	INCREMENT B
A06F	26	F5	BNE	IF B NOT EQUAL TO 00 BRANCH TO <u>NVAL</u>
A071	08		INX	ELSE INCREMENT X
A072	8C	_____	CPX	COMPARE X TO END ADDR
A075	26	EC	BNE	IF NOT SAME BRANCH TO <u>OMT</u>
A077	7E	E0E3	JMP	ELSE JUMP TO MIKBUG CONTROL
A07A	3F	ERROR	SWI	PRINT ERROR STATUS

MT2

0000	FE	A002	START	LDX	LOAD X WITH START ADDR
0003	4F		OMT	CLRA	CLEAR A
0004	5F			CLRB	CLEAR B
0005	06			TAP	CLEAR CCR
0006	A7	00	NVAL	STAA	STORE A AT XADDR
0008	A6	00		LDAA	LOAD A WITH DATA JUST STORED
000A	11			CBA	COMPARE B-A
000B	26	0D		BNE	IF NOT SAME BRACH TO <u>ERROR</u>
000D	4C			INCA	ELSE INCREMENT A
000E	5C			INCB	INCREMENT B
000F	26	F5		BNE	IF B NOT EQUAL TO 00 BRANCH TO <u>NVAL</u>
0011	08			INX	ELSE INCREMENT X
0012	BC	A004		CPX	COMPARE X TO END ADDR+K AT A004
0015	26	EC		BNE	IF NOT SAME BRANCH TO <u>OMT</u>
0017	7E	E0E3		JMP	ELSE JUMP TO MIKBUG CONTROL
001A	B7	A000	ERROR	STAA	STORE A AT A000
001D	F7	A001		STAB	STORE B AT A001
0020	FF	A002		STX	STORE X AT A002
0023	CE	E19D		LDX	LOAD X WITH ADDR OF CR/LF/X STRING
0026	BD	E07E		JSR	JUMP TO PRINT CR/LF/X
0029	CE	A000		LDX	LOAD X WITH ADDR OF ERROR DATA
002C	BD	E0CA		JSR	JUMP TO PRINT ERROR (A)
002F	BD	E0CA		JSR	JUMP TO PRINT DATA (B)
0032	BD	E0CB		JSR	JUMP TO PRINT ERROR ADDR (X)
0035	7C	A003		INC	INCREMENT K FOR NEW START ADDR
0038	20	C6		BRA	BRANCH TO <u>START</u>

DATA FILE

00 001 000

BOOTSTRAP THE 8080

Lichen Wang

If your 8080 μ P system is not equipped with non-volatile memory, you probably have to reload the memory from time to time. To read the Intel hex format paper tape, you need to key in a loader of some eighty odd bytes long. This is rather tedious and often leads to error. Altair Basic has a bootstrap loader of twenty or twenty one bytes long. In principle, you can use this bootstrap to load in your own loader which will then load in your program. However, since Mr. Bill Gates claims that he did not get payed enough and is in the mood of calling people thieves. (See HBCC newsletter V2-1.) I decided to code one myself. What comes out is a bootstrap of sixteen bytes long. This is still too long, maybe our professional experts can make it shorter. For the time being you are welcome to copy mine and I will not call you a thief (this includes Mr. Gates).

The part that you have to key in look like this:

```
0000 DB00    READ IN    0        ;READ AND
0002 E620          ANI    20H    ;MASK THE STATUS BIT
0004 CA0000      JZ     READ    ;NOT READY YET
0007 DB01          IN     1      ;READY, READ IN A FRAME
0009 010000 HERE LXI    B,HERE  ;LATER BECOMES INX B, STAX B, CPI
000C 02          STAX B      ;LATER BECOMES FF
000D C30000      JMP    READ    ;LATER BECOMES JNZ READ
```

And the paper tape should have the binary equivalent of the hex numbers shown below:

```
01 01 ... 01 03 02 FE FF C2 00 00 XX XX ..... XX XX FF
<- leader -> <- bootstrapping -> <- your loader -> marker
```

Where your loader is punched in binary format on the paper tape between the 00 and the FF denoted by XX XX XX XX. Your loader cannot have any byte with the value FF. The marker FF tells the bootstrap to start your loader starting at 10H. After the FF, the paper tape is read by your loader. Use whatever format you want.

If your loader cannot be loaded at 10H, then you will have to write another loader which can be loaded at 10H, use it to load in your first loader to load in your program. This sounds very confusing, but that is how bootstrap works. Have you ever tried to get yourself off the ground by pulling your bootstrap?

Incidentally, the I/O ports at locations 1 and 8, the status bit mask at 3, and the jump condition at 4 may have to be changed for different I/O interface board. Your loader should copy them from the bootstrap rather than setting them up on its own. (Or, you can code your loader to change location 9 to RET and use READ as your input routine.) This way the same paper tape can be used on different machines. To carry this one step further, your program should in turn copy them from your loader, so that it too can work on different machines.

BULLETIN BOARD

FOR SALE - One PT Co. 2K EPROM board with 16-1702A's (total 4K) for \$150/offer. Intel 8214 PICA, \$17. Want paper tape reader/punch. Need info on acoustic coupler sold by SSM. Glenn Nelson, Box 1846, Brown U., Providence, RI 02912, 401-274-5794.

TELETYPES - Models 28 through 40, new or rebuilt, RO's, KSR's, ASR's. All available immediately. NATIONAL TELETYPEWRITER CORP., 207 Newtown Rd., Plainview, NY 11803. Contact Joe Gibbons at 516-293-0444.

WANTED - People who are interested in use of home computers for text or word processing. I have not found the technical advice to put together a configuration, or the software. I will try to stimulate and coordinate interest in a practical home word processor. Send me your ideas. Robert H. Edmonds, P.O. Box 464, Estudillo Station, San Leandro, CA 94577. (Count me in on this - the Newsletter needs a system - Bob Reiling)

SELECTRICS - IBM 1052-2 (I/O) \$850; 1053-2 (R/O) \$580; you pay shipping; these are heavy-duty Selectrics; IBM Maintenance eligible; top condition-used by my hospital in research project less than 100 hours; full set of manuals; WM. J. Schenker, M.D., 2086 Essenay, Walnut Creek, CA 94596, 415-939-6295.

NEW NAME AND ADDRESS - Starting May 5, 1976 the Arrowhead Computer Co. has a new name and location: THE COMPUTER STORE, 820 Broadway, Santa Monica, CA 90401, 213-451-0713.

**HOME BREW
COMPUTER
CLUB**

NEWSLETTER

Post Office Box 626
Mountain View, CA 94042

FIRST CLASS MAIL